

## DOORWAY FROM FOULSHURST, CHESHIRE.



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The ancient seat of the Foulshursts, formerly standing at Crewe, in Cheshire, was purchased by Sir Christopher Hatton in 1578, who was one of the most considerable patrons of architecture of the time; as is proved by the beautiful structures of Kirby (still standing), Holdenby, Stoke Poggis, &c. He added to or adorned the old structure of the Foulshursts; and in 1610 he sold the estate to Sir Randolph Crewe, who was anxious to settle himself on the spot (being a descendant or connection of the Foulshursts) during the erection of his splendid structure of Crewe Hall, which was considered at the time, as it certainly remains, the model building of the style of James I. The old manor-house of Foulshurst remained standing, and was probably occupied by Sir Randolph. In King's Vale Royal of the County Palatine of Cheshire a plate is given of Crewe Hall, shewing Foulshurst old manor-house in the distance. Several of the ornamental portions of the old building were removed by Sir Randolph to his new structure, among them the entrance doorway, represented above, which he placed leading into the carved parlour; but during the recent alterations it has been removed, and is now in



Fig. 2.

the great hall, or dining-room, near the staircase, a small portion of which is seen in the sketch.

Fig. 2 represents the ornament at foot of jamb, enlarged; and fig. 3 gives the plan of the jamb.



Fig. 3.

A close resemblance between this doorway and those of the cinque-cento architecture of Italy, and the Renaissance of France, may be observed.

The fire-place seen through the opening forms part of the reparations made to Crewe Hall at the Restoration, the building having sustained two severe assaults during the civil wars.

C. J. RICHARDSON.

## PROPOSED RESTORATION OF ST. JOHN'S GATE, CLERKENWELL.

Our readers are aware of the dangerous state into which this remnant of old London has fallen, and of the appointment of a committee to effect its restoration, if possible. With this end in view, the committee are about to issue the following appeal to all who are interested in preserving the arts and monuments of the middle ages:—

Architecture has its political use, public buildings being the ornament of a country; it establishes a nation; draws people and commerce; makes the people love their native country, which passion is the origin of all great actions in a commonwealth."—MASON.

On the first of January last, the New Metropolitan Buildings Act came into operation; and in accordance with clause 40 (which requires that the district surveyor shall apply forthwith to the official referees to authorise a survey to be made of all buildings within the limits of the Act, which through neglect or other causes are in so ruinous a condition that passengers are endangered thereby), a survey was made, and a notice given to the owner of St. John's Gate to repair it. The decomposition of the stone-casing to the several sides of the building has rendered it dangerous to passers-by; and it appears that the substantial repairs alone are of so expensive a character as to prevent the present occupant from devoting any attention to a careful reparation of the exterior; in fact, the covering of the gateway with *compo* has been suggested. The knowledge of these facts was laid before the FREEMASONS OF THE CHURCH, a society for the recovery, maintenance, and furtherance of the true principles and practice of architecture; when a committee was immediately appointed to prevent the spoliation of the building by cement, and to adopt measures for its careful reparation. This committee consists of the Rev. Hugh Hughes, B.D., rector of St. John's, Clerkenwell; the Rev. G. Pocock, LL.B.; Messrs. Thomas Dighton (Architectural Modeler to Prince Albert); C. H. Smith (one of the examiners of the stone for the new Houses of Parliament); W. G. Rogers; James Finn; and W. P. Griffith, F.S.A., honorary secretary. Several meetings have been held, and a design prepared for the restoration of the gate.

The committee trust that all those who feel a pleasure in preserving so interesting a remnant of former times, associated as it is with so many pleasing literary remembrances, will come forward and aid them by contributing their mite, however small, and thereby save the mortification of seeing the old gate *compoed*, if not ultimately destroyed. Perhaps a few words, by way of refreshing the memories of those who through the cares of mercantile and other pursuits may have forgotten its existence, as well as its claims upon us for our support, will not be thrown away.

St. John's Gate stands at the southern entrance of St. John's square, and is the only ancient portal now remaining of those monastic buildings once so numerous in the metropolis and its vicinity; it formed the grand south entrance to the Hospital or Priory